

TOWN OF GRAFTON

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The attached stenographer notes of the September 9, 2019 Snow Road Rear and 23 Greany Drive public hearing, prepared by Star Curry of the McCarthy Reporting Service, are a **DRAFT**. The Planning Board has not voted to accept them. These **draft** minutes may be changed, amended or corrected.

EXHIBIT 47

1 So I would probably recommend to the 2 Board decide which way we want to proceed at 3 least initially.

Attorney Heep's letter is up on the 4 website as Exhibit 43. So that people if they 5 6 had taken a look, and Planning Board members, I 7 don't know if you had a chance to take a look, if

you wanted to review that as one of the first 9 steps.

10 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I have to be careful 11 because I messed up your name last time. Victor?

12 MR. MANOUGIAN: Victor Manougian, yes.

13 Maybe I can do an end run.

Unfortunately, I'm here to report that Jason 14

15 Mayo, who is my program manager for strategic

16 acquisition real estate from Crown Castle, conflicted out, couldn't make it tonight. So

without even going into anything today, I would

19 request that we continue to October 14th so he

20 could be here.

21 I did have a chance to talk with your

22 attorney, Chris Heep, and I know where he was

23 going to come from.

17

24 I will say that I didn't see the -- I

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- looked Friday late and I didn't see the I'll say
- 2 the two lawyer letters. I saw them today which
- is in addition to Chris's, Scott Regan's on
- behalf of American Tower. And both have raised
- 5 issues that I need my client here for.
- 6 So as Joe said, I agreed to continue
- 7 to today because your counsel needed time. If
- 8 you remember the first meeting David Maxson
- experts, brought them back, so I'm just asking 10
- 11 for one courtesy back to continue to October
- 12 14th.
- 14
- MR. MANOUGIAN: The two letters. 15
- 17 and --
- MR. MANOUGIAN: And topics raised and 18
- have Jason here with me. After it was quick to 19
- 20 review those seeing them on the site today.
- 21 MR. HASSINGER: Well, I think that we
- be well to at least let people hear -- you know,

- I don't think -- I was watching the website and
 - the letter wasn't up there until quite recently
 - so I'm sure that hardly anybody knows what advice
 - we got on that. So it might be, might be helpful
 - for folks and for the progress of this thing to
 - 6 maybe touch on a few of those things before we --
 - 7 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: You thinking sort of
 - a brief kind of review or summary of what has
 - 9 just been submitted?

10

MR. HASSINGER: And then see.

11 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Yeah, without,

12 without getting too deep into it because, you

13 know, Victor and his client would like some time

14 to review those letters and respond, and I'm

15 certainly willing to give them the time they need

16 as, you know, as in general I like to make sure

17 that everybody has the time they need to review

18 the materials and everything.

19 I would also just ask if just very

20 briefly what the changes were in the revised

21 drawings without, again, without trying to drive

22 it too deep in the discussion, but I haven't had

23 a chance to review these yet, so just a brief

24 summary of what's changed and a brief summary of

3

- the recent letters and without a whole lot of
- 2

- couldn't be here so I agreed to hold off with our

- 13 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: So you're looking
- for some time to review and respond to the --
- CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: -- the two letters 16

- 23
- 22 have a good many people here who are interested in this and we have two consultants and it might

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- discussion.
- MR. HASSINGER: Also I want to know where this would put us on the shot clock. 4
- 5 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Good question.
- 6 MR. HASSINGER: Because I'm quite
- 7 concerned that we are pushing this out too far. 8 MR. HEEP: I believe it was mid-
- 9 October. I forget the precise date.
- 10 MR. MANOUGIAN: I filed May 28th so 150
- 11 days would be about the end of October. The 14th
- 12 would be before that date.
- 13 MR. HASSINGER: Yeah, but it takes us a
- substantial amount of time to prepare a decision 14
- and act on it so I don't think we're gonna have 15
- time. Unless there is some way to extend the 16 17 shot clock. And the way I hear it that's
- 18 difficult.
- 19 MR. HEEP: I would typically -- I'm new
- 20 to this Board, but I would typically where the
- 21 applicant has requested an extension of three
- 22 weeks or four weeks, I would typically ask for an
- additional extension of time on the shot clock 23
- 24 for this, to conduct this public hearing.

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1 MR. HASSINGER: That is possible? 2 MR. HEEP: That is certainly possible 3 as long as the applicant agrees to it in writing. 4 MR. HASSINGER: Okay. Because I am not 5 a fan of hearings that go on for six months. 6 MR. LAYDON: Just for the Board. 7 Application submitted May 29th, stamped in June 8 4th, public hearings on July 8th, July 22nd, August 26th with no testimony, and then tonight. 10 A hundred-fifty-day shot clock from the May 29th 11 would be Saturday the 26th. So whether it's 12 October 25th or October 28th, that's where we're 13 right at the end. 14 So because of town meeting we don't 15 follow the second and fourth Monday. So then we 16 would be looking -- we have -- because we've already established our September schedule, we're 17 18 looking at October 7th and then the follow-up 19 meeting would be October 28th. And, again, 20 that's because of Columbus Day, the 14th, and 21 town meeting on the 21st.

1 MR. REGAN: Okay. What's easier for you?

MR. HASSINGER: Why don't one of you 3 4 use that and one of you use the chair.

5 MR. REGAN: Good evening, everyone. As 6 an initial matter we would oppose the request for 7 a continuance. This thing has been going on for

some time and my firm sent a letter to special counsel and basically we outlined the legal and

factual arguments that we contend should have 10

11 been addressed before this application was filed 12 in the first place.

13 The law relative to seeking the

14 special permits has been the same for a long 15 time. And we made it very clear that basically,

16 you know, they filed this thing without trying to 17 work out the economic hardship that they contend.

Crown Castle is a multibillion-dollar company.

19 Our clients have had a relationship for a number

20 of years, with each owning, you know, easements

21 under each other's assets nationwide. And this

22 has already been continued to a date of Crown

23 Castle's choosing. It should be denied.

24 MR. HASSINGER: Does American operate

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1 that 7th and 28th.

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2 MR. HASSINGER: Are we going to hear

So as we look at dates and all those

things as far as what works for everyone, I just

want to make sure that, you know, we have down

from anybody from American Tower tonight?

4 MR. REGAN: Yes, sir, I was going to

5 ask for a moment to address.

Good afternoon, I'll try to keep this 6

as brief as possible. I understand this thing 7

8 has been going on for a long time. My firm --

9 MR. HASSINGER: Introduce yourself.

10 MR. REGAN: Sorry. I'm Scott Regan on

11 behalf of American Towers, LLC. And here with me

12 is Kellie Shea.

13 MS. SHEA: Hi, I'm in-house counsel for

American Tower. So I would be happy to answer 14

15 any American Tower-specific questions.

MR. HASSINGER: We need you as close to 16

17 the mic as we can get you.

18 MR. WOOD: And there is also a podium

19 too, if that's easier for you guys.

20 MR. REGAN: Sorry. Is here good? Can

21 you hear me okay?

22 MR. HASSINGER: Yeah. We want to make

23 sure that the folks who watch this on television

can hear you though.

towers the way Chris -- they do?

2 MR. REGAN: So actually our clients

have had a relationship for a long time and, yes,

there are various American Tower assets

nationwide where Crown Castle owns the easements

underneath.

7 So we're essentially looking at a

landlord-tenant relationship. And if one party 8

9 is unhappy with the economic terms of that

10 relationship, I think it's incumbent on them, and

11 I think the case law supports my argument, that

12 it's their duty to try to work that out. That

13 did not happen here. Before filing the

application, I think the law is pretty clear that 14

15 they should have reached out to us to discuss it,

they didn't, and we have since made efforts to 16

17 resolve this thing without additional need for

18 town resources.

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19 And my understanding too is, you know, 20 Grafton has actually dealt with these things in

21 the past. And has denied these types of special

23 submitted by Crown Castle here.

MR. HASSINGER: I was there, so. I've

permits for basically less evidence than has been

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1 been here for all of them.

2 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Bob would know.

3 MR. HASSINGER: I would know. What I'm

trying, what I'm interested in is whether should 4

- 5 they run out their lease and leave, whether --
- 6 what are the prospects for still having service
- 7 from the Indian Path site by some other means?
- 8 MR. REGAN: I can't get too much into
- 9 detail about the settlement communications. I
- 10 can tell you with confidence my client has no
- 11 intention whatsoever of terminating the lease.
- 12 They're very happy with it. It's a relationship
- 13 that has worked nationwide for a long time.
- 14 MR. HASSINGER: But they've said that
- 15 their lease is up, you know, next year. And if
- 16 they leave, if they don't renew, then is there a
- prospect of -- because apparently there will 17
- 18 still be a special permit active at Indian Path
- 19 that would allow a tower.
- 20 MS. SHEA: Yep. So we have no
- 21 intention of terminating any lease with Crown
- 22 Castle at the site at all. And we would like for
- 23 them to remain on this parcel as they are.
- 24 But if they were to terminate, which

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- 1 we would advise against of course, we would
- 2 entertain taking assignment of that tower if the
- opportunity presents itself so that we can
- 4 maintain continued coverage for the Grafton area.
- 5 We understand that cell towers are
- essential to modern society so American Tower 6
- really has no intention of taking that coverage 7
- 8 away from the community and all the residents,
- 9 so.
- 10 But once again, we don't own this
- 11 tower right now. We are just the land -- we own
- the easement. So if that in the future that 12
- 13 opportunity presents itself, we would obviously
- 14 entertain that opportunity but we're not really
- 15 at that point yet and we would like to work out
- some type of deal with Crown Castle at this 16
- 17 parcel itself. That's where we stand right now
- 18 for that.
- 19 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Mr. Maxson, I think
- 20 you had --
- 21 MR. MAXSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- David Maxson with Isotrope. 22
- 23 I wrote a report after looking at the public records on this site. And I've heard a

- couple of times now a reference to the lease.
- And I believe that we're talking about the lease
- between American Tower, which controls the
- 4 easement underneath the Crown Castle tower, and
- Crown Castle, which owns the tower.
- According to those records, I also 6
- 7 have come to believe that there are wireless
- carriers who are renting ground directly from
- 9 American Tower. Is that correct?
- 10 MS. SHEA: I can't speak to exactly
- 11 the -- what if the carriers are renting from us,
- 12 but generally how those type of sites work is
- 13 that there are ground lease like for shelter
- 14 spaces, sometimes carriers will rent from the
- 15 parcel owner or whoever owns the easement, but I
- 16 don't exactly know the terms of which carrier has
- 17 which ground rights with us there, so.
- 18 But generally there is rental spaces
- 19 on the tower and there is rental spaces on the
- 20 ground to support that equipment that's on the
- 21 tower. However, without me looking at that file
- 22 I can't speak to specifics.
- 23 MR. MAXSON: All right. Mr. Chairman,
- 24 just to remind you and the Board what I said in

- my report is that there are a couple of companies
 - that have filed notices of lease of the ground
 - space with the -- American Tower, the party that
 - controls the easement. So they have leases with 4
 - American Tower. It is not just Crown Castle that
 - has a lease with American Tower.

 - 7 And that means that in the worst case,
 - Crown Castle and American Tower can't come to
 - 9 terms, and Crown Castle decides to pack up its
 - 10 toys and take them away, in other words, remove
 - 11 its tower, there are still tenants on American
 - 12 Tower property that could enjoy a tower of their
 - own or a tower of American Tower's construction. 13
 - It could be messy, but it would not result in the 14
 - end in a prohibition or effective prohibition of 15
 - the provisional wireless service at that site 16
 - 17 because American Tower has indicated that it is
 - 18 doing whatever it possibly can to keep its
 - tenants at the site. 19
 - 20 So I just reiterate what I said in my
 - 21 report which is the prediction that there will be
 - 22 a significant gap in service and there needs to
 - 23 be a tower on an adjacent property to solve that significant gap in my mind stretches credibility.
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1 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Any other questions 2 for the American Tower representatives?

3 MR. VENKATARAMAN: I have one question.

4 So going back to our consultant's point. So the

5 way I understood is it's a multi-party

6 contractual agreement, can that still be broken

7 off with it being Crown Castle and American

8 Towers, if they decide hypothetically speaking if

9 they break the contract, if they agree to void

10 the contract, would the other carriers who have a

11 contract with them, would they not also need to

12 be part of this agreement to say yea or nay?

13 MR. MAXSON: My understanding from the

14 evidence in the record is that it's not a

15 multi-party contractual agreement. Is that when 16 AT&T first acquired the site, it leased ground

17 space from the landowner and built a tower. AT&T

8 sold its tower to a tower company which

19 ultimately ended up in the hands of Crown Castle.

20 When additional carriers came on the

21 site over the years, they rented ground space

22 from the property owner and they rented tower

23 space from AT&T/whoever became the tower owner.

24 So those other carriers have two

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leases, independent leases. And that's why even

2 if the tower goes away, these other carriers,

3 according to public records, have leases with

4 American Tower for the ground space. They still

5 have the right to be there, they just would need

6 to come up with a new tower if the existing tower

7 comes down.

8 MR. VENKATARAMAN: Okay. Not to get

9 into too much of legalese here, but would

10 Crystal -- sorry, Crown Castle not have it as

11 part of their agreement that these carriers whom

12 they have leased out space on the tower and

13 that's -- that is by what your that lease is what

14 they would get to lease something on the

15 property. So all I'm trying to understand here

16 is is it as clean as if these two parties come to

17 an agreement and say, okay, we can void this

18 contract and remove it, is it going to be as

19 clean as that? Or would the carriers also need

20 to be part of this agreement to initiate, do we

21 have enough input about that?

22 MR. MAXSON: I think that's certainly a

23 question for the legal folks from someone who has 24 negotiated leases both as a tenant and a landlord 1 for radio communications facilities.

2 It -- it's a tenant-subtenant kind of

3 relationship. So the tenant has the deal with

4 the property owner and then has subtenants on his

5 tower. So what goes on at that upper level of

6 the agreement is between the tenant and the

landlord. And the subtenants usually have the

8 right to perhaps look at a change in landlord-

9 tenant relationship but don't have any say over

it.

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MR. VENKATARAMAN: Okay.

MR. MAXSON: But, again, I don't want

13 to get into interpreting these particular deals14 or anything like that, but in my experience

15 that's what we see.

MR. VENKATARAMAN: Generally speaking.

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MR. MAXSON: Yeah.

18 MR. REGAN: And I won't get into the

19 legalese anyways, you can all read it in my

20 letter. But just as a reminder, we're here based

21 on Crown Castle's application that there is an

22 economic infeasibility. And the law does require

23 that they explore every viable alternative in

order to show that they're entitled to a special

My client has said repeatedly that

ven 1 per

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permit.

3 we're willing to work with them to make this

4 thing work, we don't want the tower to go away,

5 we don't want Grafton to lose wireless service

6 and as of right now there is no risk of that

7 happening. None.

8 MR. HASSINGER: That's what's bothered

9 me all along. At the first hearing I asked about

10 we need to understand the economic imperative and

11 I asked for information and I followed that up

12 the next time. And each time I've been told that

13 they won't give us any. And then -- but they've

14 said that there is an economic imperative. And

15 then we get the letter from you folks that says

16 they never talked to us.

17 MR. REGAN: Right.

18 MR. HASSINGER: That creates a problem

19 for me.

20

24

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Victor, you --

21 MR. MANOUGIAN: I just want to comment

on the question you raised and the special permit and the tower. And I talked with this -- about

this with your counsel Chris briefly and he said

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he would think about it. 1

2 So our position is -- and I don't know

3 if David is right, I don't know if the carriers

4 have ground leases with American Tower, I

wouldn't know that, my client wouldn't probably

6 know that. But I can tell you that we own the

7 tower. That tower had special permits for

different carriers to be on it. When September

9 2020 comes, and we take down that tower because

10 we can't agree with them still, there is no

11 special permits left for those carriers to attach

12 to a tower because the tower is gone.

13 There was special permits talk about that tower, that metal, that level and the size 14

15 of antennas and all that. So I believe, unless

16 I'm wrong, that there would be interruption of

service if it gets to that point because if we 17

take the tower down then they're not going

19 anywhere until they file a new application for

20 the land that they have a lease on. I can't

21 argue with that, that they can do that.

22 But I don't think that just because

23 there was already four special permits, or how

24 many assigned to carriers, that they can just

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1 tomorrow put up a new tower. They'd have to go

2 back through here, come in with designs, tower

height, composite material, whatever they're

4 going to do. So that's my opinion and I'll defer

5 to your counsel on that.

6 But and, again, I don't want to get

7 into too much because my client is not here to

8 answer some of the things he's raising.

9 MR. HASSINGER: The original permit we

10 were told was granted to AT&T. I'm not aware of

11 a transfer, of us being involved in any way when

12 it moved to other ownership. So I'm not sure

13 that your argument doesn't come up there, too.

14 MR. MANOUGIAN: And you wouldn't.

15 These things get sold in the industry through,

but that's still those special permits relate 16

17 back to that tower that was built. And if that

18 tower is gone, I don't think there is special

19 permits left. They have to get new special

20 permits for a new tower.

21 MR. HASSINGER: Well, I suppose I

22 should let those folks over there tell us about

23 that.

24 MR. WOOD: Yeah, I -- go ahead. MR. HEEP: After you.

2 MR. WOOD: Go ahead.

MR. HEEP: So I was just gonna briefly

4 if I could just walk through, walk through the

comments that I provided in the letter earlier

6 today.

1

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7 As I said earlier, I was brought in to review this application from a legal perspective.

I've done that, I've reviewed all the application

10 materials and primarily attempted to evaluate the

11 applicant's claim that there is an economic

12 hardship here that would entitle it to some

13 benefit or preferential treatment under the

federal Telecommunications Act. 14

15 Part of the applicant's argument in 16 the application materials is that there is a new

17 FCC declaratory ruling that went into effect

18 earlier this year which allows applicants to rule

19 out potential sites based on excessive costs.

20 There is a lot of stuff in that new FCC

21 declaratory ruling, but in terms of costs, the

22 ruling is primarily concerned with local fees and

23 charges that the town can charge

24 telecommunications applicants for applications

with reference to the right of way. There is

nothing in the declaratory ruling that directly

supports the position that the applicant can rule

4 out sites based on private rents being too high.

So there is nothing in that

declaratory ruling that I think directly supports 6

7 the argument that's been presented in the

application is point number 1.

But point number 2 is, and perhaps

more importantly, there is no information in the 10

11 record that would allow the Board to make -- to

independently analyze this claim that there is an 13 economic hardship here. There is the applicant

has asserted in the application materials that 14

there is an economic hardship and there is some 15

16 economic uncertainty with respect to the site

17 given the relationship with its landlord/

18 competitor American Tower, but there is no

information that would allow you to determine 19

that there is actually an economic hardship here. 21

And I don't believe there is anything

22 contained in the Telecommunications Act that

23 requires you to take that representation from the

applicant on, you know, on its face or accept

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1 that on faith.

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2 So if they're going to well and truly 3 make an economic hardship argument, they've got

4 to support it factually in the record so you can

5 make a determination that this -- this site is

6 indeed economically not feasible. And I don't

7 haliova that's that has been and have

7 believe that's -- that has happened here.

9 haven't proven entitlement to any kind of relief

And I think on that basis as well they

10 under the Telecommunications Act.

11 So I think as with all tele-

12 communication applications that the Board is

13 reviewing, the Board has the ability to require

14 the applicant to investigate alternative sites

15 and go to sites that are better under your zoning

16 bylaw than the one that they first selected.

17 This application is interesting in

18 that the alternate site already exists. It's

19 already up and running, there is already a tower

20 there. And I think the Board would be well

21 within its rights to expect the applicant to do

22 everything in its power to remain, remain at 20

23 Indian Path with its tower and the carriers who

24 are currently being serviced there.

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1 So I think not much additional else

2 for me tonight. But, again, based on my review,

3 I don't believe on the record before the Board

4 there has been a showing that a denial of this

5 application would be an effective prohibition of

6 wireless services under the act. And I don't

7 believe the applicant has made out a case for

8 any, you know, entitlement to any relief under

9 the TCA.

10 MR. HASSINGER: Question. I'm not

11 clear who the FCC's rule protects. Does it

12 protect the service providers? Does it protect

13 the tower owner? Does it protect the land, the

14 land controller?

15 MR. HEEP: The FCC's -- the

16 Telecommunications Act is intended to allow

17 carriers to fill out gaps in service. And in

18 this case, so I think the answer to your question

19 is carriers.

20 MR. HASSINGER: And thus far I've seen

21 nothing from any of the carriers.

22 MR. HEEP: No, that's absolutely

23 correct. And I know David has made that point to

24 the Board before.

1 MR. HASSINGER: Right, sure.

2 MR. HEEP: And I absolutely agree that

3 this application is -- the claim that there is

4 going to be an effective prohibition, which is

5 the applicant's claim, is hurt by the absence of

6 any carrier present in the room who are making

7 actual statements in the application materials.

8 I would expect I think that they need that as

9 part of their application.

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: It appears to me

11 that there is currently no gap in coverage.

12 There is the potential of a gap that's at issue

13 here, but there is no current gap in coverage.

14 And the likelihood of that potential gap becoming

15 reality is at best unknown.

You know, the applicant is suggesting

17 and claiming that the gap will materialize or is

18 very likely to materialize, but as you've pointed

19 out there is -- I don't think there is anything

20 in the record that really supports that other

21 than the applicant's assertions. And so it's

22 sort of a -- it's two, two closely related

23 problems that I'm seeing with this.

One is the fact that there is no gap

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now, and the other is the fact that the record
doesn't really demonstrate that the gap is likely

3 to materialize.

4 MR. HEEP: And I think that point has

5 been made by American Tower in their letter and

6 in their appearance this evening as well. That 7 the statement from the landlord that they're here

8 and willing to work with the applicant/tenant to

9 continue this 20 Indian Path as a viable site is

5 Continue tins 20 Indian Fath as a viable site i

10 I think an important point.

11 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Now, if I want to

12 be, you know, sort of giving the applicant the

13 benefit of the doubt here I would say that the

14 application is here before the Board in

15 anticipation of the possibility that an agreement

16 ultimately does not get reached. And that's,

17 that's a very different scenario from we have a

18 gap that we need to fill right now.

MR. HEEP: Right.

20 MR. HASSINGER: In addition to all of

21 that, though, for me, there is another problem,

22 that is they need a waiver which we just -- I

can't possibly grant. They're now going to be

less than the tower height from one of the

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- property lines and we require 300 feet. They're 1
- 2 going to be 73. And I don't see that -- you
- 3 know, I'm only one vote on the waiver, but I've
- done a lot of waivers, or I've decided a lot of
- waivers on a lot of things, so I think that that
- 6 is also a -- I think they need to find another
- 7 answer.
- MR. WOOD: So I do have -- if you want 8
- 9 to respond to him, I'll let you speak.
- 10 MR. MANOUGIAN: No, go ahead.
- MR. WOOD: So just the overall thoughts 11
- 12 for me is that, you know, at most hearings we've
- 13 asked for more documentation about what is
- actually the financial hardship in writing and 14
- 15 what's actually that and we haven't received
- 16 anything.

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- 17 We have also brought up at least once
- or twice on something from a carrier saying that,
- 19 yes, they will move with you, they will populate
- 20 the tower when it moves. Or some clause,
- 21 redacted or not, with another -- a lease document
- 22 saying that they have to move with you.
- 23 Something that says that you'll have a guaranteed
- 24 carrier at the new location.

with that much time. I'm relatively conservative

MR. HASSINGER: I'm not comfortable

- but I know that it takes a long time. That will
- take us across Thanksgiving in terms of trying to
- prepare a decision and get, get results. Even if
- 6 everything closes out on the night that you're
 - talking about.
- 8 MR. MANOUGIAN: Well, what time would
- you want for an extension of the shot clock
- 10 beyond the 30 days?
- 11 MR. HASSINGER: Well, certainly at
- 12 least 60 days. But I -- I'm not at all sure that
- 13 this is going to be productive.
 - MR. MANOUGIAN: Well, that's why I'm
- 15 asking. Because I'm not opening anything here.
- 16 MR. HASSINGER: What additional -- I
- 17 mean, having your client here is one thing.
- 18 Offering additional information that we've looked
- 19 for and that you haven't provided, what are you
- 20 going to provide for us at that time?
- 21 MR. MANOUGIAN: There is emails
- 22 attached to the attorney's letter that I saw
- 23 today that I want my client to look at and give
 - me answers about, where they say they

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- 1 The other thing that struck me in
 - looking at things is where one of your, I'm
- sorry, I don't remember who it was that spoke,
- but was talking about how the monopoles never
- fall. And in our record we have someone that
- pointed out a few cases that it's happened. And
- 7 where, you know, I did mention to move it, you
- know, off is one of my thoughts away from the
- houses, but even still having a tower that would
- fall even if it stays right at its focal point 10
- 11 where it's held up and it goes off the property
- 12 line, that's a little bit troubling to me. So
- 13 that's -- those are just my thoughts offhand
- 14 right now.
- 15 MR. MANOUGIAN: Thank you, Mr.
- 16 Chairman. I don't want to address anything
- 17 raised because I'm still hoping to get an answer
- 18 on our request to continue.
- 19 I listened to what Joe said that the
- 20 shot clock runs out October 26th. I will extend
- 21 the shot clock 30 days from October 26th, so that
- 22 we can come back on October 28th and still have
- 23 time for you to issue a decision without
- violating the shot clock.

- 301 communicated I want to know what happened at my
- end. I don't have those answers right now.
- MR. HASSINGER: All I know is that when
- we left here there was an agreement -- there was
- an offer from American and I thought there was an
- 6 agreement to work with them from Crown.
- 7 MR. MANOUGIAN: Again, he's not here.
- 8 MR. HASSINGER: Now here we are --
- 9 MR. MANOUGIAN: He's not here so I
- 10 can't --
- 11 MR. HASSINGER: Well --
- 12 MS. SHEA: Can I add about that, just
- 13 about the email he's referring to?
- 14 MR. HASSINGER: Yes.
- 15 MS. SHEA: So I actually followed up
- with one of our VPs who is actually the one who 16
- 17 sent that to Crown Castle. I followed up with
- her today and she confirmed that there still has 18
- been no offer made by Crown Castle even though we 19
- 20 followed up several times. So we're still open
- 21 to entertaining any type of offer that Crown
- 22 Castle would provide.

24

- 23 But I followed up with her today
 - specifically before this hearing so that I could

1 say that.

2 MR. HASSINGER: Did the -- the letter

3 or the document that you sent showed at least two

- efforts to raise a response from Crown and 4
- apparently you have maybe even more and you
- 6 haven't received any. So what we talked about at
- 7 the last -- the last time we talked about this,
- which was how many weeks ago when we talked about
- 9 it? Was that July 8th, two months ago?
- 10 MR. LAYDON: It was July 22nd.
- 11 MR. HASSINGER: No, was 22nd the one
- 12 that was continued? No, okay, the 22nd. Anyway,
- 13 six weeks. Unless you can tell me that we're
- 14 going to get some financial justification and
- 15 that we're going to see applications from
- 16 carriers, I don't see the viability of --
- 17 MR. MANOUGIAN: I can't speak to
- 18 applications with carriers right now, but I was
- 19 just told that they will continue with
- 20 discussions and I can go 60 days on the shot
- 21 clock. And that way one more hearing.
- 22 MR. HASSINGER: No, I asked for
- 23 justification for your claim of economic hardship
- 24 that you said at the first, I think it was the

303

- 1 first one, that you folks said you couldn't, that
- 2 there was no way, that you were not gonna be able
- 3 to find a solution on the current site.
- 4 There was a question asked and
- answered as I recall. It's certainly that the 5
- impression has been that you simply were unable
- 7 to do that and therefore you needed to do this
- 8 new site. Okay.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: And I think what is
- it, Joe, you said if we're looking to -- if we 10
- 11 were looking to grant the applicant's request for
- 12 a continuance, would October 7th have been -- you
- 13 mentioned the 14th but we don't have a meeting on
- 14 the 14th. We do have a meeting on the 7th.
- 15 would that be a likely date that we can do this?
- MR. LAYDON: It's possible. We do 16
- 17 have -- it would be another late night. They did
- 18 just add when they mentioned about granting,
- 19 adding a 60 day, about meeting on the 28th. We
- 20 don't currently have anything scheduled for the
- 21 28th.
- 22 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: That might be.
- 23 Yeah, I think in any case, though, in terms of what we've discussed so far tonight I
- McCarthy reporting service

think we would be looking for some forward

progress of the issue that Bob raised about the

location and the waivers required for that that

we've discussed before, that hasn't changed, it's

still a concern.

6 On the issue of the potential gap in coverage and the economic hardship argument,

those related arguments, there is at least the

opportunity for some forward progress either

10 through Crown Castle and American Tower making

11 some progress in negotiations or reaching a

12 definitive conclusion that the negotiations will

13 not be successful and that would have to be sort

of I think supported by both parties.

15 Or -- I lost, I'm sorry, I lost my

16 train of thought. But basically in a nutshell

17 what I'd be looking for if we were to continue 18 was a reason to believe that some forward

19 progress could be made on these issues, on the

20 issues of the gap in coverage and the possible

21 alternative resolutions for that.

22 If, I mean, if we're -- if we -- if

23 there is no reason to think that we're going to 24

get over the next however many weeks, let's say

305

14

October 28th, between now and then, if we're not

likely to see any resolution of these issues,

there is not much to be gained by continuing.

Because based on the information we have at hand,

on the record right now, I think that likely

leads to one conclusion. Additional information

that could change that would be -- would be worth 7

waiting for. 8

23

24

9 MR. MANOUGIAN: And if we don't have it then your decision is done right there. So I 10 11 agree to do that. I will go with my client on

12 both those points.

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: So if we were to do 13 that, and, again, this is still a hypothetical at 14

this point, but if we were to continue this 15

16 proceeding to October 28th, we will be looking 17 for additional information to support your case.

18 And if by that time nothing more is forthcoming,

19 I think we would conclude that there is really no

20 more progress that can reasonably be expected.

21 MS. SHEA: May I just add one more 22 thing? I'm sorry, I keep interjecting.

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Yes.

MS. SHEA: But it seems that the

- continuance is so they can provide more
- information about the economic feasibility of the
- site. However, we've made it known from the
- start that we want to work with Crown Castle so I 4
- find it hard to believe that if it were continued
- they'd find -- or they'd have any evidence that
- 7 would say we're unwilling to work with them when
- we've made it clear from the start that we do
- 9 want to work with them.
- 10 So a continuance almost seems
- 11 unnecessary when we've made it clear from the
- 12 start that there is no evidence to produce
- 13 because we do want to work with them to figure
- 14 something out that benefits both parties here.
- MR. HASSINGER: That's my point. If I 15
- 16 don't have a commitment to provide economic
- justification, if I don't have a commitment to 17
- 18 provide that at the next meeting, I'm not gonna
- 19 vote for a next meeting.
- 20 MR. MANOUGIAN: I'm making that
- 21 commitment and I will tell my client --
- 22 MR. HASSINGER: To provide the --
- 23 MR. MANOUGIAN: -- that's what they
- 24 have to do.

1

the application.

2 So, yes, unless, unless we receive

information that changes those facts, the outcome

is -- at this point the outcome seems to me to be

pretty clear.

10

- 6 MR. HASSINGER: I'm interested in
- 7 whether any of the other members are -- have any
- difficulty with the waiver. Because if we
- understood that we might know how this is going
 - to come out no matter what.
- 11 MS. HASSINGER: I have a lot of trouble
- 12 with the waiver. I think that we actually have a
- 13 pretty good picture of what's been going on and
- 14 that the fact that the two parties aren't
- 15 communicating, that there is a willingness on one
- 16 side but there has been no evidence that -- that
- 17 the applicant has even tried to reach out, so how
- 18 can they say that there is an economic problem
- 19 when they don't know what that economic problem
- 20 is. They can't demonstrate it because they've
- 21 never interacted with them to know what the
- 22 economic situation is. So how suddenly are we
- 23 gonna come up with something magic when they've
- 24 known that and known our stance.

307

- MR. HASSINGER: -- economic
- justification that you've told us twice that you 2
- can't give us? Is that what you're saying?
- 4 MR. MANOUGIAN: Something numbers-
- 5 wise. I hear you and I hear what Chris has said.
- MR. HEEP: No, but I think American 6
- 7 Tower -- and, I'm sorry, I forget your name --
- 8 MS. SHEA: My name is Kellie Shea.
- 9 MR. HEEP: -- made a very good point.
- Which is in terms of the Board's overall 10 11 preference in terms of how this application will
- 12 ultimately be decided, I think you're not just
- 13 asking for evidence of economic hardship. I
- think you're sending the applicant off with 14
- instructions that it really ought to go off and 15
- get a deal done with Crown Castle because we 16
- 17 would like that, too.
- 18 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Let me put it a
- little bit more explicitly. In my view based on 19
- 20 what's currently on the record, there is no
- 21 demonstrated gap in coverage, there is no
- 22 demonstrated economic hardship. And without
- 23 further evidence that -- that line of thinking

that those facts pretty much lead to a denial of

309

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Consider Bob's

- 2 question, too. Should the gap and related
- questions be adequately addressed to support
- this, there is still the problem of the specific
- location and the fact that on the subject
- property there is no location for the tower that
- 7 does not require a fairly substantial waiver.
- 8 MS. HASSINGER: Exactly.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: So putting the other
- arguments aside, which I think is the question 10
- 11 you're asking, Bob --

12

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- MR. HASSINGER: Right.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Putting the other
- arguments aside, could we as a Board conceivably 14
- four out of five of us -- I suppose actually to 15
- 16 be precise the way granting of a waiver requires
- 17 just a majority vote, but the permit as a whole
- 18 requires a super majority and it's sort of --
- 19 MR. HASSINGER: The question is whether
- there is anybody besides me who is unwilling to
- 21 grant the waiver. If there is -- you're not,
- 22 Linda, you're not willing to grant the waiver?
 - MS. HASSINGER: No.
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MR. HASSINGER: I think the question is

310

1 clear then.

2 MS. HASSINGER: I don't, I don't see

3 any reason to extend it for another two months.

4 MR. WOOD: And I will say I am very

5 borderline on even considering doing the waiver.

6 But that -- I haven't considered that part of it

7 too hard because the financial hardship reason is

8 so strongly --

9 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: But like I say, even

10 if you set that aside, assuming that, assuming

11 that, although it hasn't been demonstrated up to

12 now, assuming that the need for this tower is

13 demonstrated --

14 MS. HASSINGER: This site is not.

15 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: -- would that, would

16 such a need motivate us to grant the waiver.

17 MS. HASSINGER: Yeah, I don't think it

18 would.

19 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I lean towards I'm

20 not fond of a waiver. We have granted some

21 waivers similar to this but not -- not to the --

22 we've discussed this before, so I don't want to

23 go over it again. But we've seen other cases

24 where there have been somewhat similar waivers

311

1 but not -- trying to look for the right word --

2 not the magnitude of the waiver that we would be

3 forced to look at here.

4 MR. MANOUGIAN: Can I just comment on

5 that?

6 MR. HASSINGER: Well, let me finish.

7 Also, when the Indian Path tower got a waiver, it

8 was a very different situation. There was a gap

9 in coverage. This was original build-out of

10 coverage so there was a clear gap and their

11 waiver is over the turnpike easement mostly,

12 which is a different situation from private

13 property in a case where we have no evidence at

14 this point.

15 I just we could get closure here and

16 save everybody a lot of time.

17 MR. MANOUGIAN: I just want to comment.

18 I'm trying to stay away from the facts because

19 I'm trying to get the continuance. But I did

20 pull out, Mr. Hassinger had raised that probably

21 at both meetings what waivers were given.

22 So right now we reconfigured the tower

23 so that it's going to be set back the required 24 distances from residences. But we do need the 1 waiver for 300 feet from property lines.

2 And I did pull out the plans from 20

3 Indian Path and Mr. Hassinger correctly said that

currently my monopole will be set back three

5 distances: 143, 154 and 177.

6 So I pulled out the plans. In 20

7 Indian Path, it was 150 feet from the property

line of the Mass. -- of the Town of Grafton. It

9 was 150 feet from the property of Lenus and

10 Roscoe Bicknell at 40, that's their mailing

11 address, 40 Carroll Road that they abutted, and

12 then over by where the house is that the property

13 is that owns this land, there is a 20-foot

14 waiver. It's about 280 feet away from the

15 property line. So you did give some waivers, not

16 as much.

17

MR. HASSINGER: And I need to see that

18 plan. You mentioned some numbers. This plan

19 shows 73 feet.

20 MR. WOOD: The plan in front of us from

21 you for the --

22 MR. MANOUGIAN: Is that the current

23 one?

24

MR. WOOD: Yes.

MR. HASSINGER: 73 feet, that's what I

313

2 said. The tower is what, 140 some, so that's

3 half the tower height.

4 MR. WOOD: 143 feet.

MR. MANOUGIAN: Would you like to see

6 the plan that I have?

7 MR. HASSINGER: Yeah, I would like to

8 see it.

11

12

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9 MR. MANOUGIAN: First page shows these

10 two and then the next page has these two.

(Board members conferring.)

MR. MANOUGIAN: And I apologize, Mr.

13 Hassinger, I was looking at my old numbers before

14 we moved the tower.

MR. HASSINGER: Right, it's quite

16 significant though.

17 At that time I think it was at least

18 ten feet shorter than it is now. It's been

19 extended at least once. So it was what, I don't

20 know, it may have been 80 feet. I don't

21 remember. And I don't know whether it tells us

22 on this drawing.

23 MR. MANOUGIAN: It gave the 150-foot

area so I thought that was the first, the height

31

- 1 of the tower fall zone. I assume that's what
- 2 that 150-foot circle was for. And then the
- 3 300-foot circle.
- 4 MR. HASSINGER: I have no idea what the
- 5 150. I guess I think maybe they were showing
- 6 what, what that distance is. It was
- 7 substantially -- it shows that whatever the tower
- 8 was, 80 or 90 feet, versus 150, as information,
- 9 it's a dotted line as -- well, it's a line that
- 10 shows as a matter of information.
- 11 In any case, this was a different
- 12 need, this was a basis of a different need. It
- 13 was a very different time and a totally different
- 14 board.
- 15 MS. HASSINGER: Well, and also that was
- 16 the build-out time. It was when -- that tower
- 17 was needed because it was covering the area.
- 18 This isn't. They haven't proven the need. There
- 19 is still a tower there.
- 20 MR. MANOUGIAN: Unfortunately, that's
- 21 all we have whenever we do a situation like this
- 22 where one tower is going to go away, another one
- 23 is going to come. It's a race and I can't show
- 24 it until the other one goes down. But when the
 - 315
- 1 other one goes down, there won't be a tower there
- 2 for a little while. But I can't show that. It's
- 3 a race between competitors in the industry and we
- 4 would ask that you give us a chance to try to
- 5 work it out.
- 6 MR. WOOD: When you say that just to
- 7 ask, have you ever been attorney of record for
- 8 another case like this where it relates to the
- 9 FCC decision?
- 10 MR. MANOUGIAN: Where it relates to
- 11 what?
- 12 MR. WOOD: To the FCC decision on a
- 13 financial hardship where you need a tower for
- 14 this reason?
- MR. MANOUGIAN: No, it's too new.
- 16 MR. HASSINGER: Has there ever been a
- 17 case on this point?
- 18 MR. MANOUGIAN: I've done cases before
- 19 with reloads where the race is won by one or the
- 20 other and the boards just let both go forward.
- 21 MR. HASSINGER: No, but my point and I
- 22 asked, I asked the last time around. Has there
- 23 been any case? Are we breaking new ground here?24 MR. HEEP: I don't know of any case
- McCARTHY REPORTING SERVICE

1 that precisely defines what is so expensive for a

- 2 carrier that you -- they can necessarily rule a
- 3 site out.
- 4 But there is case law in our
- 5 jurisdiction that says carriers are not entitled
- 6 to the cheapest or most economically beneficial
- 7 site available to them. So if the cost -- at
- 8 some theoretical level cost becomes an important
- 9 factor but, again, neither this applicant nor any
- 10 other carrier is entitled to the cheapest or
- 11 close to cheapest site.
- The Board is well within its rights to push applicants to better sites under your zoning
- 14 bylaw, even if that has the consequence of making
- 15 it more expensive for the carrier.
- MR. HASSINGER: We pointed out that the adjacent parcel which this 74 feet reaches to is
- 18 big enough and is positioned adequately to
- 19 provide the service. They need to explore all of
- 20 their options and they didn't.
- 21 MR. MAXSON: But if I may just add to
- 22 this economic hardship thing. It's -- as I'm
- 23 understanding, it's the carriers who are
- 24 protected from --
 - MR. HASSINGER: That's what I asked,

317

2 yeah.

1

- 3 MR. MAXSON: -- or potentially
- 4 protected from whatever, extreme or unreasonable
- 5 costs or something.
- 6 In addition to lacking any financial
- 7 information at all, what has been talked about is
- 8 the impact on the tower company, Crown, and we
- 9 don't know how that percolates down to the
- 10 carriers as tenants of a tower in terms of rent.
- 11 And ultimately I would imagine that
- 12 the appropriate thing to look at is what is
- 13 unreasonable to the carriers. They are tenants
- 14 of Crown Castle, they are tenants of American
- 15 Tower, they are tenants of other tower companies.
- 16 Wireless companies own their own towers in
- 17 places.

23

24

- 18 So there is a range of monthly costs
- 19 that the carriers pay for each individual cell
- 20 tower site. And the tower companies manipulate
- 21 their capital and their operating expenses in
- 22 order to make it work.
 - So from my perspective it's a very
 - complicated question to answer as to whether

any -- any cost that is unreasonable or 1 unbearable by Crown is necessarily going to

result in an unreasonable or unbearable cost by

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any of the wireless carriers. 4

5 MR. HASSINGER: I wanted to follow up.

MR. WOOD: Just one thought that kind 6 7 of related to what you said, Bob, is that I

noticed on the select board meeting agenda for

9 tomorrow they'll be discussing the draft town

10 warrants. And one of them was for that adjacent

11 town-owned parcel in relation to the select board

12 being able to enter a contract or sell it for a

13 cell tower purpose.

14 Now, my understanding is even if we deny this today, you know, outright deny it and 15

16 then do our draft decision and everything, that if it passes at town meeting, if the select board 17

signs off on that being a warrant and it passes

19 at town meeting, then they still have to, Crown

20 Castle will still have to come back for another

21 special permit along that same line, brand new

22 process.

23 So if that passes, which is a much

24 more appropriate parcel, then we would be

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1 starting this process over with a brand new

2 public hearing and everything as well. So a

denial for this would not negate a resubmittal.

4 MR. HASSINGER: Yeah, there is another area if I'm not jumping in too badly. As if. 5

There has been suggestion that there will be a

gap in service if the lease runs out or the, 7

8 well, the right to operate -- the right to have

the tower on that site runs out. I see two

possibilities. One is that the tower gets 10

11 transferred to somebody else, or the tower comes

12 down and a new tower goes up.

13 If the tower comes down and a new tower goes up, there will be some sort of a gap 14

in time. That's different than there is no 15

service, isn't it? Would a -- I mean the cell 16

17 towers go out all the time for a while.

18 MR. HEEP: Right. And I think the

applicant has said that on September 20th of 19

20 whatever the date is of 2020 the tower is coming

21 down. That's the position of the applicant. 22 I think the applicant would be foolish

23 to take the tower down on the final day of their

current lease because even if that were to occur,

you would still -- they would need to file

another application to add another site at that

time. And then you would still be in the process

of weighing the various alternate locations that

are available.

6 And 20 Indian Path, even if they took

7 their tower down, is a previously permitted site

of a telecommunications tower. So it I think

would necessarily have a leg up in your

10 alternatives analysis that you would have to

11 conduct in response to that application. And you

12 would be able to look at other parcels as well.

13 And I think, you know, so if there

14 was -- if they manufactured a gap by taking their

15 tower down, you would still have to look at what

16 site is best situated to fill that gap in

response to new applications that get submitted. 17

18 And that could be American Tower building a tower

at 20 Indian Path, a brand new tower could go 19

20 right up, or it could be, you know, another site

entirely. But so I think -- I think -- I hope I 21

22 answered your question.

23 MR. HASSINGER: Well, people say you

24 can't have a break in service. It seems to me

321 like it should be possible to have a break in

service if it's unavoidable.

MR. HEEP: I would -- I would -- I

think my response would be in response to that

alleged break in service, however long it would

take, the current site, 20 Indian Path, would

7 remain a viable, in my opinion, a viable

alternative site that would -- that could support

9 the denial of their new application somewhere

else. Even if they take their tower down, 10

11 somebody else might put one there.

12 MR. MAXSON: And I look at this from a

13 pragmatic perspective. That's a key question.

Is a temporary interruption of service an 14

15 effective prohibition, and, you know, I can't say

legally, but from a practical standpoint wireless 16

17 carriers, as you suggested, deal with these kind

18 of things all the time.

22

19 Water towers when they have to be 20 refurbished and sand blasted, painted, and there

21 are antennas on them, the antennas come off. And

often what they do is they come in with temporary

23 cell towers on wheels. Or they put in a

24 temporary mast with a ballasted base. I saw one

on Chappaquiddick, it was up for like a year or 1 2 two before they got the new tower put in. 3 So this all can be coordinated so

there is no interruption in service between the 4

5 dismantlement of an old tower and its replacement

6 with a new tower.

18

2

7 And I'm not recalling whether there 8 are any abandonment rules in the bylaw, but 9 generally if a facility is no longer used or the 10 tower has to come down for some reason, you have 11 a period of time to replace it and still maintain 12 your permit.

13 And from having looked at the record, the permits were all issued to wireless carriers 14 15 to occupy that site with a wireless facility 16 which includes ground equipment and antennas 17 mounted on the tower.

So it comes down to the finesse of interpreting whether a replacement tower on that 19 20 site is covered by the existing special permits 21 or not. But even if it isn't, Attorney Heep is 22 pointing out that the site it's already 23 developed, it's already been used for this 24 purpose, it has the utilities necessary, the

have enough information now to render a decision.

2 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I have to say,

3 particularly given my sense of the Board's

position on the requested waiver, that such a

waiver the Board might seriously consider

granting if the demonstrated need was

7 overwhelming.

14

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8 Now, the applicant has picked the location on the subject property that gets them as much distance as they can feasibly get on that 10 11 particular piece of property from the neighboring 12 houses, it's certainly not from one of the 13 property lines, it's very close.

15 lack of any overwhelming evidence supporting the 16 need for this particular site, I suspect that the Board would be highly unlikely to grant the

However, given the lack, the continued

17 18 waiver and thus between that and the -- the -- on

the record at least the lack of exploration of 19

alternatives, it's -- it doesn't seem to me like 20 there is much prospect of making any further

22 forward progress on this particular application.

23 MR. HASSINGER: Yep. At this point it

24 seems to me that there are two options. One is

323

1 telecommunications necessary, the access

necessary. This is a place that the wireless

carriers would be foolish to walk away from

because even if a new tower has to go up and they

have to wait for that, it's the least

troublesome, most cost-effective alternative for

7 them to maintain their facilities.

MR. HASSINGER: Yeah, the carriers have 8 9 structures and equipment inside of them so they're already -- besides the electric and 10

11 communications coming in, they already have the

12 infrastructure --

13 MR. MAXSON: The ground equipment, yes.

14 MR. HASSINGER: -- except for the wires

15 up the pole and the antennas.

MR. MAXSON: Right, right. So even 16 17 when we're talking about the town property as a

18 potential alternative, I ask, alternative to

19 what? You have a working site, you have a

20 prediction of a gap in service. You have a

business situation where there are competitors 21

22 who are playing the race as one of the attorneys 23 has said. And is that something that the Board

wants to be involved in, that race. Or do you

to close the hearing and make a decision.

2 The other is for the applicant to withdraw and come in with a new application that 4 is better constructed.

Right now I'd consider a withdrawal without prejudice. Once we close the hearing, 7 that's not gonna apply.

8 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I'm quite sure Victor would like to consult with his client 10 before agreeing to a withdrawal.

11 And we have, we have members of the 12 public here who are interested in this. I don't 13 want to explore any territory in this hearing that we have already explored. And everything 14

15 that -- everything that's been submitted to us in

writing and everything that's been said at 16

17 hearings is a matter of record, we don't need to 18 repeat that. But if we do have any comments from

the public that add to what we've already put on 19

20 the record, now would be the time.

21 Mr. Whitney.

22

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MS. SHEA: Thank you.

MR. REGAN: Thank you all very much.

MR. WHITNEY: Richard Whitney, 13

325

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Greany Drive.

2 I'm not gonna get into the old stuff

3 or anything else, I promise you that. But since

- 4 we've been here for this meeting from day one
- we've heard nothing but this is our plan, plan
- A -- I mean plan B. Victor has sat here with his
- 7 client and saying that we're gonna go with this.
- Then all of a sudden we're not gonna deal with
- 9 Crown Castle -- I mean American Tower, we don't
- 10 want nothing to do with them. We want to walk
- 11 away from them, we want to be on our own.
- 12 was said to you guys.
- And it was said to you that at the 13
- last meeting that we will have all this 14
- 15 information. They asked for this to be tonight.
- 16 As you see, all my neighbors, a lot of them are
- here tonight, and they're taking their time and 17
- where is their main guy? Not here. Why?
- 19 Vacation or bringing a child back to school or
- 20 whatever.

1

- 21 And also before I leave, I would ask,
- 22 Mr. Chairman, if you would, if you can instruct
- 23 Joe to talk to the town administrator of taking
- 24 off the warrant article, talking to the select

- 1 board, okay, of Article 27 of selling that land
- 2 or using that land for a cell tower off of 7
- 3 Institute Road.
- 4 Also I'll be making phone calls to the
- select board members because I don't believe that 5
- should be going from one because if they drop out
- of this or take it back without prejudice, we 7
- pass this at town meeting, that that's, you know,
- we're gonna do this, here comes right back in
- closer to my house, closer to my door. So that's 10
- 11 where I leave that.
- 12 Thank you for listening to me and it's
- 13 short.
- 14 MR. HASSINGER: Without prejudice I
- believe would only apply to essentially this 15
- plan. The question is if they -- if they 16
- 17 withdraw with prejudice, then the only way they
- 18 can come back for two years, if I'm not mistaken,
- is if they have a substantially different plan. 19
- If they bring in a plan on a different piece of 20
- 21 property, that's a different game.
- 22 MR. WHITNEY: I understand that, Bob.
- 23 But the thing is since day one when we met with these people, they told us they didn't know who
- McCarthy reporting service

the people were, they didn't tell us -- you've

- asked them for information. They keep
- stubbering -- putting it in their back pocket,
- I'm sorry, but not giving us the information.

And the thing is, and I've done some

homework and I believe our attorney here will

back me up, if that pole goes down, somebody can

go right back up with another pole within I think

it's 30 days by our charter or 60 days. And use

10 the same leases.

So it's leased to the AT&T, Verizon, 11

12 and they wouldn't even tell us that in the

13 beginning. I mean, we had to drag it out of

14 them. So where do we stand with them telling you

15 tonight I definitely will be back here on October

16 14th with this. So as far as I'm concerned, it's

a dead horse in the water, you know. Thank you. 17

18 MR. MANOUGIAN: Mr. Chairman, I can't

withdraw the application and I would like you to 19 20 consider the request for the extension to give me

21 time to respond to the two letters that came in

22 Friday and today. It's just a couple weeks.

23 Otherwise, I want to put my case in if

24

we're going to go forward tonight. I've been

holding back talking about what we've done, but I

really want to see if you're going to grant the continuance request first before we do that.

4

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: If you can hold on for a second. I do have a hand up from the

public. 6

7 MR. LINDBLAD: Hi, Dave Lindblad, 2 Old

Snow Road. While I have the Board here, I just 8

9 wanted to ask you guys, can I ask you guys a

10 question?

11 Making these decisions is there any

12 repercussions for at best misdirecting you and at

13 worst outright lying to you on an application

14 process? Are there any repercussions for that

15 besides you guys just saying no to the

application? 16

17 MR. HASSINGER: We're not taking sworn

18 testimonv.

19 MR. LINDBLAD: Well, just a generic

20 question. Instead of calling you up

21 individually, I figured I would want to do it

22 here. I just is there a generic --

23 MR. HASSINGER: As it happens, I

believe I've read that we could take sworn

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1 testimony but we never have in my 28 years on the 2 Board.

3 MR. LINDBLAD: Oh, so you mean so it's

4 not sworn testimony so they can't necessarily be

5 called a lie or a misdirect or a --

6 MR. WOOD: They can be called a lie but

7 it's not perjury I think is the response to that.

8 MR. LINDBLAD: But there is no

9 repercussions for that? I can come up here and

10 say whatever I want to get them -- just

11 hypothetically I could just say anything I want

12 just to get the application and get it?

13 And I think I talked to maybe Joe on

14 this and I know you guys could actually come back

15 and say, hey, you lied about this or you said

16 this and it was a false statement, you could take

17 that away I guess. Is that the only repercussion

18 that this Board has?

19 MR. HASSINGER: Our decisions -- well,

20 Joe probably can say, but our decisions include

21 the fact that it's based on all of the

22 information that we've received and I think that

23 there is a caveat in there if it turns out.

24 MR. LAYDON: Correct. There is, there

1 goes

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is standard language in the Board's decisions for

2 special permits that basically say that the

3 decision is based upon the information, testimony

4 received, and that false information may lead to

5 the decision being null and void. So basically

6 the repercussions are legal.

7 MR. LINDBLAD: So there is nothing

8 before the decision, you use that as part of the

9 decision?

10 MR. LAYDON: Correct.

11 MR. HASSINGER: That's something in the

12 decision that then if something turned up that

13 fit that criteria, consequences could follow. So

14 there is that.

15 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Also, if during the

16 hearing process, if the totality of the record

17 includes a statement that is less than truthful

18 and the record also contains something that is

19 contradictory, if -- the record can, for example,

20 take two assertions of somebody's asserting this

21 fact, two things that are contradictory, those

22 are both part of the record but it should become

23 clear that which -- if there are two, if there is 24 a contradiction it should be, the record should

McCARTHY REPORTING SERVICE

1 somehow be clear that there is -- that one is

2 true and one is false say.

3 So that's, you know, it's largely a

5 ultimately the decision basically includes

6 language that says if the record the decision is

matter of what's on the record and, as Joe said,

 $7\,\,$ based on, if some element of the record that the

8 decision is based on turns out to be false, then

9 that affects the validity of the decision, so.

MR. LINDBLAD: Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: There are sort of

12 repercussions but no one is going to come and put

you in jail, put the applicant in jail or anybody

14 else for that matter. Anybody from the public

15 can also make a statement that they believe to be

16 true but turns out not to be.

MR. LINDBLAD: Okay. Just not to

18 repeat anything, but anything that we have on

19 that Planning Board page with all those notes you

20 guys have to review at some point before making

21 your decision, if it went the full distance

22 basically?

23 MR. HASSINGER: Actually we've been --

MS. LINDBLAD: Looking at it all as it

333

goes?

MR. HASSINGER: -- following it. You

B know, every hour I was logging in today looking

4 for new input.

5 MR. LINDBLAD: Okay. Gotcha, gotcha.

6 And just one last thing. Do you guys ever do --

7 you were trying to do it but for some reason,

8 maybe I missed something, you guys were trying to

9 do -- call it what you will, I don't know what

10 you call it, kind of like a -- what's the word

11 I'm looking for -- basically making a vote

12 without making a vote?

13 You were trying to do it, but I didn't

14 really -- you guys didn't complete it. Like

15 everybody like taking a piece of paper and

16 writing it down anonymously? You don't do

17 anonymous votes to find out, to test your waters?

18 Like you were trying to do that.

MR. WOOD: We could I think.

20 MR. HASSINGER: No. First, if we're

21 actually voting we can't have a secret vote, it

22 has to be open. And on the record. But we're

23 not to the point of having that decision to make.

But if we -- if we can see that the

MR. LINDBLAD: Gotcha. Thank you for

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: A hand up there.

MR. ABRAHAM: Matt Abraham, 17 Greany

I'll get back to you, Victor, I

economic and the carriers and all that 1

- 2 notwithstanding can set those -- if we find that
- it's not gonna go anyway because of the waivers, 3
- we can cut to the chase here and save everybody a 4
- lot of time. 5
- 6 So we're trying to get a, you know,
- 7 idea. Hopefully people haven't, you know, people
- are still listening, the Board members are still
- 9 listening.
- 10 MR. LINDBLAD: Okay. But you guys
- 11 can't do like a secret thing between
- 12 yourselves --
- 13 MR. HASSINGER: No.
- MR. LINDBLAD: -- to figure out which 14
- 15 way you're going? I thought that's what you were
- 16 trying to do. But --
- 17 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: No. All of our
- 18 votes on all matters before the Board are public.
- 19 MS. HASSINGER: We can't even talk to
- 20 each other over email or anything.
- 21 MR. LINDBLAD: Oh, really? Okay.
- 22 MS. HASSINGER: No.
- 23 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: All of our business
- 24 is transacted --

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- 1 MS. HASSINGER: All transparent.
- 2 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: -- in a public
- meeting open to the public and everything we do
- is a matter of record, including the votes.
- the vote is not unanimous, it's a matter of 5
- 6 record who voted in favor and who voted against.
- 7 MR. HASSINGER: You can check the
- 8 state's Open Meeting Law.
- 9 MR. LINDBLAD: Okay. So there is no
- testing of the thing? Because I thought that's 10
- 11 why you were asking each Board member, I thought
- 12 that's -- whatever, I read it wrong. I thought
- you were trying to --13
- 14 MS. HASSINGER: We listen to each
- 15 other.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: We may, we may
- informally get a sense of what each of us is 17
- 18 thinking about a particular issue.
- 19 MR. LINDBLAD: Oh, okay.
- 20 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: That doesn't have --
- it doesn't have the weight of a formal vote. 21
- MR. LINDBLAD: Okay. Thank you. 22
- 23 MS. HASSINGER: Bob and I have to be
- 24 careful at home.

10 Viability of the proposed site aside, 11 I think it's pretty clear that where the tower

Drive. I just wanted to say one thing. So

viability of the proposed site aside -- is that

- 12 stands now is the most viable option. So the
- 13 question really becomes what constitutes

haven't forgotten about your request.

14 financial infeasibility.

your time, appreciate it.

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working?

- 15 And if you're talking about two
- 16 multibillion-dollar firms, I think it was
- 17 discussed amongst the Board a little bit what
- 18 that really means, and nobody has answered the
- 19 question of why they're claiming that. Is rent
- 20 now X and they want to raise the rent to 2X? Or did they just not want to pay rent at all and
- 22 they want to own their site outright?
- 23 I feel like nobody is asking that
- 24 question and trying to put pen to paper of what
 - 337
- the actual money is. And until that gets
- answered, and you've been asking for that since day one, so I don't know why we keep granting
- extensions when the simplest question hasn't even
- been addressed yet.
- 6 MR. HASSINGER: Of course, there is
- another point there and that is even if they 7
- provided us some information that showed that it
- 9 was an economic problem, would the law, would --
- it's not an FC -- it's an FCC regulation I think, 10
- 11 or maybe it's interpretation of the law or
- 12 something like that, would it -- would it be
- 13 invoked in this case. And I think you said no.
- 14 MR. HEEP: I mean they've already
- 15 invoked it, but the new FCC declaratory ruling
- 16 from earlier in the year does not state, as I
- 17 said, it does not state the point that, you know,
- 18 having Crown Castle having to pay its landlord a
- 19 private rent of X is too much and would require
- 20 the Board to let them go to another site, it does
- 21 not say that.

24

- 22 MR. ABRAHAM: It just seems like both
- 23 parties are -- you know, I guess the client is
 - not here. Both parties are here. They're

obviously going back and forth by text or phone 1 call to figure out information about whether or

not they, you know, are okay with an extension or 3

4

7

5 The information is there, both parties

are here. Ask it. Why can't they tell you 6

tonight what is so economically infeasible about

the current location. Nobody will just blatantly

ask and answer that question and that's what this

10 whole case hinges on.

11 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Victor, to get back

12 to you. Victor is continuing to request a

13 continuation so that he and his client can

respond to the latest letters from counsel for 14

15 the town and counsel for American Tower.

16 Given that it seems unlikely that the

17 Board would grant this permit with the requested

18 waivers, I kind of like -- I don't mind giving

19 the applicant the opportunity to respond to

20 information that's really in some sense has come

21 to their attention in the last few days, but on

22 the probability that it won't materially affect

23 the outcome, I might suggest the shortest

24 feasible continuance for the sole purpose of a

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brief continuation of the hearing to assess the

additional information with I want to say the 2

possibility of more extensive discussion if it

4 turns out contrary to our expectations that that

5 might be warranted.

6 We have another meeting two weeks from

tonight, and another meeting on October 7th, both 7

of which are fairly fully scheduled. But if

we're thinking -- if we want to think in terms of

10 the applicant -- for the sole purpose being the

11 applicant to respond to the latest communications

12 and then to decide where to go from there,

13 keeping in mind the possibility that you might

14 want to consult with your applicant about the

15 question we raised about possibly withdrawing

16 without prejudice, or taking some other action,

17 given all that we've talked about over the

18 several hearings about the difficulties

associated with this site, the potential 19

20 alternative sites and potential for 20, you know,

21 continuing operations at 20 Indian Path, you

22 know, there seems to me like there are several

23 alternatives that are open to consideration.

24 We've only been discussing one location in this hearing. And I think we've come

pretty close to beating that to death with the

exception of the applicant having an opportunity

to review and follow up on these two American --

American Tower and our consultant.

6 MR. MANOUGIAN: And I just want to

7 state for the record again, this is the first

time I'm asking for this. I have not been the

cause of the prior continuances. A couple of

10 weeks. If you're going to deny it then, deny it

11 then. But at least give us a chance to reply to

12 paper that's flying around in the past 48 hours.

13 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: That's kind of the

direction in which I'm heading. That it doesn't 14

15 seem likely to me that there is -- sorry to the

16 audience at home, I just hit the mic -- it

17 doesn't seem like there is much opportunity for

18 forward progress.

19 But if we do keep the hearing open for

20 two more weeks and anticipate a brief

21 continuation at which time we ought to be able to

22 make a pretty firm decision, withdraw, close, or

23 if additional information does change, bring in

24

some new possibilities of further continuation to

341

more deeply deliberate, that I could be

comfortable with.

3 MS. HASSINGER: But it would have to

4 be very --

7

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24

MR. ABRAHAM: So we can't just ask the

6 question tonight about --

MR. HASSINGER: We've asked it.

8 MR. ABRAHAM: But so why can't we ask

9 American Tower?

MS. HASSINGER: We did.

11 MR. HASSINGER: We did.

12 MR. ABRAHAM: Are you all of a sudden

13 going to raise your rent the next year, is it

14 doubling? Why --

MS. HASSINGER: That's their

16 negotiations. That they're not going to tell us.

17 MR. ABRAHAM: But if that's what this

18 whole decision hinges on, why isn't anybody --

we've asked for the information and they just 19

20 keep denying it, they obviously know. So

21 somebody needs to answer the question.

MS. SHEA: Can I briefly address? It's

23 applicable.

So we have no intention to make this

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3

site economically burdensome for Crown Castle. 1

2 We just were asking Crown Castle to propose new

3 terms because at this point we don't know what

4 they want.

So we want to work with them, so we

6 can't really name anything, and American Tower

7 can't really name anything right now with the

terms because we've asked Crown Castle to do it

9 because we want to work with them. We want to

10 make it the most feasible for them to remain on

11 the site because we understand that's the best

12 option for the city.

13 So that's why I can't exactly answer

14 your question because it's really Crown Castle's

15 burden at this point to say what they think is

16 economically not feasible when we have presented

every option that we have at this point for Crown 17

Castle to make an offer to us. So by no means

19 are we increasing our rent exponentially like he

20 had --

21 MR. ABRAHAM: No, I was just asking the

22 question.

23 MS. SHEA: -- said, but -- no, and I

24 understand your concern, of course, because it

343

1 seems like we're all just beating around the bush

2 in some sense like you had discussed. So I just

want to make it clear that there is no intention

for American Tower to raise the rents some crazy

5 amount. So I just want to make that known.

6 MS. HASSINGER: The point has also been

7 made to us by the attorney that even if you were,

the negotiations between your two companies are 8

9 not something we should be weighing in this as

far as economic hardship since it's only the 10

11 people -- the carriers --

12 MS. SHEA: That's correct, yeah.

MS. HASSINGER: -- that are the ones 13

affected by that law. And that for us the issue 14

15 we're looking at is whether or not we're willing

to grant a waiver on a property for a wireless 16

17 facility that doesn't need to be built.

18 MS. SHEA: Right.

19 MS. HASSINGER: So the issue is not

20 really your negotiations. That's not really any

21 of our concern. What our concern is is this

22 particular property and what we're looking at,

23 the permit.

24 MR. HASSINGER: The -- 1 MR. VENKATARAMAN: I have one question.

2 MR. HASSINGER: There have been points

raised. You mentioned this new correspondence. But it's just reinforcing what we started with at

the first hearing when we asked this.

6 You've had lots of time to provide

7 that information. You've declined to provide

that information. You had your chance as far as

9 I'm concerned.

10 So I'm not in favor of, I'm not in

11 favor of on and on with hearings. This is -- for

12 28 years I've been not in favor of letting

13 hearings go on and on.

14 If the Board does decide to allow a

15 two-week continuation, though, I'm going to

16 insist that your input is in our hands seven days

17 before the hearing so that we have a chance to

18 pass it on so we don't have our people seeing it

19 the day before nor the day of the hearing.

20 MR. VENKATARAMAN: I second that.

21 MR. HASSINGER: The only

22 information I'm -- well, okay. I said it.

23 MR. VENKATARAMAN: I have one question

24 though. Did American Towers become the new

owners for that land very recently or have you

345

been owning the land or leasing the land for a

while?

4 MS. SHEA: Well, it was I believe in

2014 we gained the easement rights. So it's just

6 been the last five years.

7 MR. VENKATARAMAN: Okay. The reason I

ask this question is the application says that 8

9 due to a change in ownership of the underlying

10 ground space, the applicant and its subtenants

11 are now faced with involvement of an additional

12 unanticipated third party in the operation of

13 their facility and equipment. I'm assuming that

refers to American Towers, otherwise it's 14

15 something else.

24

If that refers to American Towers 16

17 2014, 2019 is significantly a large time of --

18 period of time in the last five years this never

19 came up for conversation. So substantiating your

20 point, Bob. Either the application was not

21 complete to start with, the second part of the

22 application says the applicant and the subtenants

23 are facing economic hardship or it's not

economically viable for both the carriers and the

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applicant. So missing lots of pieces to the 1 2 puzzle here. Thank you for that. 3 MS. SHEA: Yeah, it's not been the last 4 two years or less than that, it's been a fairly 5 good amount of time that we've had the easement 6 rights, so. 7 MR. VENKATARAMAN: Thanks. 8 And I agree with Bob to your point if 9 we do, Chairman, if we do extend it for two 10 weeks, I agree that the information should be 11 available a week prior to that so that we don't 12 sit back here talking all of this all over again. 13 MS. HASSINGER: When we --CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: We need to bring 14 15 this to a close as quickly as we can, one way or 16 another it has to be brought to a close. 17 MS. HASSINGER: The whole reason why 18 it's been extended by if you will say the Board

19 is because they brought in problems. There were

things that weren't clear in what they were 21 presenting that we had to have clarified by extra

22 counsel. And that's, you know, so in a way we

23 didn't generate that need for an extension, you

24 know, for this delay. It's because of the lack 1 about that right now.

2 MR. WHITNEY: Can I just ask one

3 question?

13

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Yes, come up to the

mic of course.

6 MR. WHITNEY: Richard Whitney, 13

7 Greany Drive.

8 I don't mean to be disrespectful.

Victor has been talking to this young lady here

with the white shirt and she's texting. Now, 10

11 she's texting to -- she's supposed to be the

12 project manager I believe? If that's --

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

14 MR. WHITNEY: Okay. Then why can't you 15 follow along with him right now, because you're 16 the project manager, and settle all this tonight

17 instead of talking to your supervisor, which is

18 the gentleman that was here with you last time 19 that him and I got into a little scuffle

20 together. So if you're the project manager,

21 you're managing the project, and Victor is

22 working for you then basically.

23 FEMALE SPEAKER: I don't have all the 24

information that's necessary that's been

1 of information that was given to us that we had 2 to go really further down the road.

3 So two weeks?

4 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Well, it's up to the

applicant to make a request for whatever 5

continuation. In light of the conversation here, 6

7 what you would like to do?

8 MR. MANOUGIAN: Yes, we would request

9 that you continue it for two weeks. And I heard

10 get you additional information by a week before,

11 so to me that would be continuance to 9/23,

12 within full to the Board by 9/16?

13 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: That sounds correct.

14 MR. MANOUGIAN: That would be my

15 request if the Board is willing to entertain

16 that.

20

17 MR. WOOD: So I will make the motion I

18 auess --

19 MS. HASSINGER: No, he does it.

20 MR. HASSINGER: Well, he needs to write

it up. We have a form for you. Well, you should 21

22 know that by now.

23 (Board members conferring.)

24 MR. LAYDON: You don't have to worry requested here.

2 MR. HASSINGER: I have no idea what she's saying.

4 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I'm not sure that

that question is particularly relevant.

6 MR. WHITNEY: No, I'm just saying, I

7 mean I'm asking this question. If they're not

giving us all the information, you need the 8

9 information to ask for an extension, but she's

10 the project manager, she should have as the

11 manager should have everything with her to do

12 this and but she's texting somebody else, her

13 boss, the owner, and saying, you know, we're

doing this, we're doing this, can we go off 60 14

15 days, 30 days, 90 days, whatever. And, you know,

16 it seems like they're just doing business right

17 behind our backs. And, you know, making

18 everything work again. I'm just saying why can't

19 she get up here as the manager, speak with

20 Victor.

21 CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: I don't know that

22 she's authorized to do that.

23 MR. WHITNEY: Well, then why is she

24 here tonight?

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